

## Shemini Atzeret – Eighth Day Assembly

Scripture Reading: Leviticus 23:39.

Shemini Atzeret means “eighth day of assembly.” For all practical purposes it is considered to be part of the 7 day Festival of Sukkot. However, it is its own solemn day. Booths are not to be dwelt in on this day.

The Eighth Day is a Sabbath. No work is to be done. On this day the celebration of Sukkot came to an end but the people were commanded to stay around with Him for one more day. Rabbi's have not traditionally understood what the purpose of this day was for. No particular demands were given for the day except that it was to be a Sabbath to Yahweh.

Traditionally on this day Hebrews began their prayers for rain. Sukkot having ended, the need for rain now began. The last of the crops were harvested by Sukkot and now the early rains were needed so that they could plant for the spring crops.

In Hebrew, the number 8 means “new beginnings”. It is on this day that the Torah scroll is re-rolled back to Genesis and the Torah portion readings start all over again for the next year.

Messiaic Jews see Shemini Atzeret as the day that Y'shua would have been circumcised. They believe that Y'shua would have been born on the 1st day of Sukkot, a Sabbath, and then He would have been circumcised on the 8th day, Shemini Atzeret, a Sabbath. Some of them say that it was like Yahweh was saying, “hang around for the circumcision of my son” which would come in the future on this day. Circumcision was a joyful event in the life of Hebrews. (Brit Milah)

We do know that all of Yahweh's Appointed times point to Y'shua. So, this seems likely to me.

In future fulfillment we know that Y'shua will make all things re-newed. When the New Heavens and New Earth appear, along with the New Jerusalem, then the book will flip back over to the beginning of Genesis, before the fall of mankind. This event is likely going to happen on a Shemini Atzeret in the future. The day of “new beginnings”.

Whatever the Sabbath day's full meaning, I am sure that Y'shua will somehow complete that meaning in the future. In the meantime, just rejoice in its celebration!

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